

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOGADI 01223 191127Z

53

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SCCT-01 IO-10 SAM-01 /075 W

----- 114125

R 191012Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3187

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1223

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SO, EG

SUBJECT: BERBERA AND EGYPTIAN PRESS

REF: A. CAIRO 7919 B. MOGADISCIO 1173

1. WE UNDERSTAND THAT HORSEED ATTACK ON EGYPTIAN PRESS (MOGADISCIO 1173) WAS WRITTEN BY EGYPTIAN NATIONAL BARRA EL-SHARKAWY, WHO IS CURRENTLY IN MOGADISCIO AND IS REPORTEDLY UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR POST AS ADVISOR TO PRESIDENCY ON ARAB MEDIA. SHARKAWY IS OR WAS EDITOR OF BEIRUT'S QTE ARAB WEEKLY UNQTE (AL OUSBORIA EL-ATE-BIA) WHOLBARFACED IN MOGADISCIO WITHIN PCST SEVERAL MONTHS.

2. SHARKAWY HAS BBRN DECRIBED TO US AS EGYPTIAN SOCIALIST WITH COMMUN IT TIES WHO SPENT SIX TO SEVEN YEARS IN EGYPTIAN JAILS. HE IS ALSO CONSIDERED MERCENARY JOURNALIST WHO IS NOW HIRING HIS PEN OUT TO SOMALI GOVT. HE HAS CLOSE TIES TO MOGA DISCIO'S PLO REP IBRIHIM KHATIB.

3. WE UNDERSTAND ALSO THAT SOMALIA'S SUPREME REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (SRC) WAS DISTURBED AT PUBLICATION IN EGYYPTIAN IQMA
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PAGE 02 MOGADI 01223 191127Z

OF WIRE SERVICE REPORTS ON CONGRESSIONAL VISITS TO BERBERA WHICH SEEMED TO CORROBORATE PENTAGON'S ALLEGATIONS. AT WEEKLY SESSION

IN EARLY AUGUST, SRC REPORTEDLY CONSIDERED HOW TO RESPOND TO EGYPTIAN PRESS. SIAD IS REPORTED TO HAVE OPPOSED ESCALATION OF DISPUTE AND SUGGESTION THAT SOMALI OFFICIAL MEDIA LAUNCH ALL OUT CAMPAIGN AGAINST EGYPT. SHARKAWY ARTICLE NEVERTHELESS APPEARED IN SEMI-OFFICIAL WEEKLY HORSEED, WHICH IS NOT RPT NOT CONSIDERED GSDR POLICY ORGAN.

4. FOR BEIRUT: WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON SHARKAWY, SPECIFICALLY, WHO MIGHT HAVE BANKROLLED HIS BEIRUT WEEKLY AND MIGHT THEREFORE HAVE BEEN A FACTOR IN HIS SURFACING IN MOGADISCIO.

LOUGHREN

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Message Attributes

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